

August - 05

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Bhubaneswar has become the first Indian city to achieve 100 per cent COVID-19 vaccination.
  - This milestone is credited to the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation running 55 centres at all times for vaccines.
- ❖ The National Geographic has listed Dubai's 'Museum of the Future' as one of the 14 most beautiful museums in the world.
  - This recognition is for its astounding architecture and sophisticated technological innovations.
- ❖ The President of the United States Joe Biden and Prime Minister of Iraq Mustafa al-Kadhimi announced an agreement to formally end the US combat mission in Iraq by the end of 2021.

## TAMIL NADU

### Thagaisal Thamizhar - N. Sankaraiah



- ❖ Veteran Marxist Communist Leader N. Sankaraiah will receive the first Thagaisal Thamizhar Award.
- ❖ The award was instituted by the DMK government this year to honour a distinguished Tamil personality.



- ❖ Chief Minister M.K. Stalin will hand over the award to Mr. Sankaraiah during the Independence Day celebrations in Chennai.
- ❖ The Thagaisal Thamizhar Award carries a cash prize of ₹10 lakh and a citation.

### **10.5% quota for Vanniyars**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government issued an order to implement the 10.5% internal reservation allocated for Vanniyar community.
- ❖ This reservation will be followed for government jobs and educational institutions from this academic year.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Suicides due to Unemployment**

- ❖ From 2016 to 2019, the suicide cases due to unemployment have increased by 24 per cent.
- ❖ This is according to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data.
- ❖ Karnataka registered the greatest number (553) of suicides due to unemployment in 2019.
- ❖ Karnataka is followed by Maharashtra with 452 cases and Tamil Nadu with 251 cases.

### **Secured Logistics Documents Exchange**

- ❖ The government has launched the Secured Logistics Document Exchange.
- ❖ The initiative has been launched to reduce logistics cost, improve logistics efficiency and sustainability and promote multi-modality in a big way.
- ❖ A Calculator for Green House Gas Emissions has also been launched.
- ❖ These digital initiatives have been launched by the government to fill the gaps where no action has been taken either by the government or the private players of the country.

### **NSO survey**

- ❖ The National Statistical Office has published the eighth periodic labour force survey recently.
- ❖ According to the survey, unemployment rate in India has increased to 13.3 per cent in the period of July-September 2020.

- ❖ Unemployment rate was 8.4 per cent in July-September 2019.
- ❖ In September 2020, labour force participation rate for all ages was 37 per cent.
- ❖ Joblessness or unemployment rate was 20.9 percent in April-June 2020.

## Labour indicators

(in %)



### Report on Power Distribution Sector

- ❖ NITI Aayog has released a report on Power Distribution Sector that presents reform pathways to transform India's power distribution sector.
- ❖ This Report was released providing steps to improve policy making in distribution sector.
- ❖ This Report is titled as "Turning Around the Power Distribution Sector".
- ❖ It has been jointly authored by NITI Aayog, RMI and RMI India.

### Operation Blue Freedom

- ❖ The government of India has accorded sanctions to Team CLAW to lead a team of people with disabilities to scale Siachen Glacier.
- ❖ It will be a new world record for the largest team of people with disabilities.
- ❖ This expedition is being undertaken as part of 'Operation Blue Freedom'.
- ❖ The Operation Blue Freedom was launched in 2019 by CLAW Global.
- ❖ CLAW Global is a team of former Special Forces Operatives of the Indian Army and the Indian Navy.



### **Centre de-licenses sugar industry**

- ❖ The Union Government has de-licensed the sugar industry to encourage the setting up of new sugar mills in the country.
- ❖ This was informed by Consumer Affairs and Food and Public Distribution Minister Piyush Goyal.
- ❖ Government is encouraging sugar mills to divert excess sugarcane to ethanol blended with petrol a long-term measure to deal with the problem of excess sugar.
- ❖ This will not only serve as a green fuel but also save foreign exchange on account of crude oil import.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Permanent Forum of People of African Descent**

- ❖ UN General Assembly has approved a resolution to establish a Permanent Forum of People of African Descent.
- ❖ This permanent forum of people will provide expert advice in addressing the challenges of racism, xenophobia, racial discrimination and intolerance.
- ❖ Resolution was adopted by consensus by the 193-member world body.
- ❖ New forum will comprise of 10 members.
- ❖ Five will be elected by General Assembly from all regions.

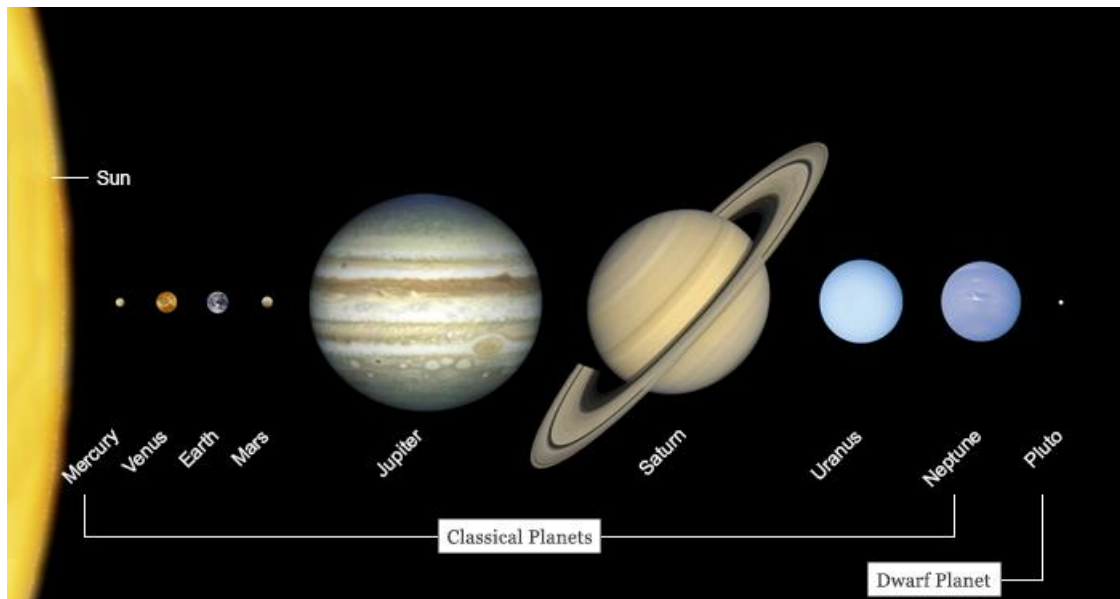
- ❖ Five will be appointed by Human Rights Council in consultations with regional groups as well as organizations of people of African descent.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### NISAR Satellite

- ❖ The ISRO-NASA joint mission NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite, aimed at making global measurement of land surface changes using advanced radar imaging, is proposed to be launched in early 2023.
- ❖ It is a dual-band (L-band and S-band) radar imaging mission.
- ❖ It could observe minor changes in land, vegetation and cryosphere.
- ❖ NASA is developing L-band SAR and associated systems.
- ❖ ISRO is developing S-band SAR, spacecraft bus, the launch vehicle and associated launch services.
- ❖ NISAR is one of the crucial collaborations of the ISRO and NASA.
- ❖ India and the U.S. had agreed upon this mission during then-President Barack Obama's visit to India in 2015.

### Saturn and Earth



- ❖ Saturn and Earth were closest to each other on August 2, 2021.
- ❖ The event happens every year when both the planets are closest while revolving in their own orbital path around the sun.

- ❖ In scientific terms, this phenomenon is called Opposition.

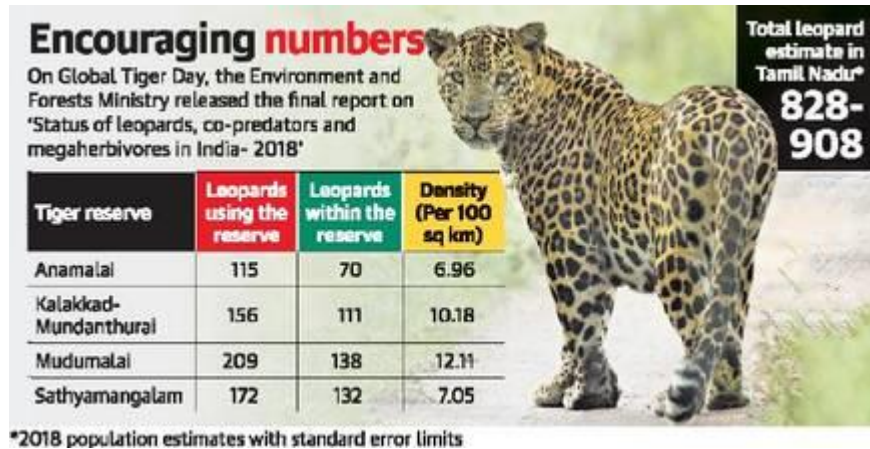
## ENVIRONMENT

### Status of Leopards, Co-predators and Megaherbivores - 2018

- ❖ Union Environment Ministry has released a new report titled-Status of Leopards, Co-predators and Megaherbivores-2018.
- ❖ The report was released on July 29, 2021 - World Tiger Day.
- ❖ As per the report
  - India's official leopard count has increased 63 per cent from 2014-2018.
  - The largest number of leopards have been estimated in Madhya Pradesh followed by Karnataka and Maharashtra.

#### About

- ❖ Scientific Name- Panthera pardus.
- ❖ Listed in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- ❖ Included in Appendix I of CITES.
- ❖ Listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.
- ❖ Nine subspecies of the leopard have been recognized.
- ❖ They are distributed across Africa and Asia.



## STATES

### Twin road tunnel

- ❖ One side of Kerala's first twin road tunnel, the Kuthiran tunnel on the Thrissur-Palakkad highway, was opened recently.



- ❖ This is the first road tunnel in the state.
- ❖ It will drastically improve connectivity to Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
- ❖ The 1.6 km long tunnel is designed through Peechi-Vazahani wildlife sanctuary.

